

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/018654

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ A61B17/28, 19/00, B25J17/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ A61B17/00-19/00, B25J17/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2005
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2005 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2005

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| • X | JP 2001-299768 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 30 October, 2001 (30.10.01), Column 4, lines 3 to 41 & US 2002/0055758 A1 page 3, left column, line 27 to right column, line 20 & EP 1277443 A1 & WO 2001/082807 A1 | 1 |
| A | JP 2001-145635 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 29 May, 2001 (29.05.01), Full text; all drawings & US 6592572 B1 & EP 1101446 A2 | 1-8 |
| A | JP 2001-71290 A (TCM Kabushiki Kaisha), 21 March, 2001 (21.03.01), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-8 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
10 March, 2005 (10.03.05)

Date of mailing of the international search report
29 March, 2005 (29.03.05)

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